

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence
Member of Consultative Committee on Defence
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bengaluru Urban District
Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bengaluru

25 October 2016

Dear Rajnath Ji,

I write to you regarding the need for stricter Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) guidelines and checks especially on funds received from Islamic charities.

As you are aware, the Government has, in the past, warned repeatedly of the dangers of the rise of puritanical, Saudi-style Islam in India and that has also been one of the factors behind Kashmir unrest. A recent report by NDTV on scrutiny of records of the past three years on the FCRA website has revealed that approximately Rs 134 crore has been received by Salafist NGO's from Islamic countries. (Articles enclosed)

These funds from Islamic charities are primarily for construction and expansion of buildings – schools, orphanage, and a madrassa. However, of the funds received by organisations in India for such expansion, many are run on core Salafist beliefs, which are against Sufi Islam as practiced in the Indian subcontinent.

It is a matter of concern that pre-eminent Salafist organisation in India- the Ahl-e-Hadees, has over 1,000 madrassas spread across the country which are about 10 times the number of Salafist NGOs listed in FCRA.

Also, FCRA records show the Madeenath Ul-Uloom Education Trust, Rabiya Basri Rahamat-Ulla-Hi-Allayha Charitable Trust, and Sadiya Educational and Charitable Trust all NGO's in Shimoga in Karnataka, received a total of Rs 36.5 crore funding from the International Islamic Charitable Organisation (IICO), based in UAE and Kuwait. It is pertinent to note that a board member of IICO was alleged to have sent funds through committees linked to Hamas and this organisation has also been banned by Israel for having links and making contributions to Hamas and other radical groups. The TV report also raises questions of the extensive work being done inconsistent with official remittances, which also suggest that there are Hawala channels also being used as the main conduit of funding, with official FCRA



remittances provided as the legitimate cover for the various projects. These organizations with foreign influenced ideology represent a threat also to all peaceful Indian Muslims and indeed the whole Nation.

It is surprising that if a TV channel can easily unearth such large scale misuse of the FCRA route, that our Intelligence agencies and police are not able to audit and identify such organizations and recipients of this kind of financing. This has gone on unchallenged for so long and has created dangerous pockets of radicalism and fundamentalism as recent NIA arrests are proving.

I therefore urge you to

- a. Completely overhaul the FCRA norms and guidelines, prohibiting funds to Religious institutions, and permit only donations for specific purposes like Health, Skill development etc. which are verifiable and credible.
- b. Undertake audit and investigation of FCRA funds received and the bona-fides of the recipients of these funds so far, and the identification of Salafist NGOs amongst these and conduct a thorough inquiry into the end use of these funds at the earliest so that these are not misused for activities that pose a threat to the Nation.

Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Rajnath Singh Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs Government of India New Delhi

Encl: Articles NDTV report.